

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04276 131823Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 PA-02 /024 W  
-----079341 131825Z /47

O 131745Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8743

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4276

FOR IPS/PL IBS/PL IOP/M ILA; SECSTATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: MEDIA REACT PANAMA CANAL TREATY

MEDIA REACT PANAMA CANAL TREATY SEPT 10-13

1. EDITORIAL COMMENT: SEPT 10 GOV'T SPOKESMAN EXCELSIOR LEAD EDITORIAL, "LO QUE CARTER ESTA JUGANDO," COMMENTED, "THE TERM 'SECURITY' HAS BECOME THE REFUGE OF ALL CONSERVATIVE AND REACTIONARY THOUGHT IN THE COUNTRY...A (TERM) WHICH FORGETS THAT THE BEST SECURITY FOR THE US RESIDES IN THE AFFECTION AND FRIENDSHIP OF LATIN AMERICA... (CARTER'S) CAUSE IS LOGICAL, REASONABLE, AND HUMANITARIAN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF HIS COUNTRY...JIMMY CARTER AND HIS POLICY ARE THE HUMAN FACE OF THE US, AND THE SENATORS MUST BE CONVINCED THIS IS SO." EXCELSIOR MANAGING EDITOR ENRIQUE OBREGON NOTED IN SEPARATE COMMENTARY THAT "THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE US IS CHANGING, TRANSFORMING ITSELF, BECOMING MORE HUMAN. PRESIDENT CARTER IS CONSTANTLY SENDING MESSENGERS TO OUR COUNTRIES. THIS IS NOT CASUAL. NEITHER IS THE REAPPROACHMENT WITH CUBA, THE PANAMA TREATY, NOR THE OFFER OF MORE AID. THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA ARE HAPPY THAT A PRESIDENT LIKE JIMMY CARTER EXISTS, CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THAT AID HAS TO BE AN ACT OF BROTHERLY SOLIDARITY, NOT ANOTHER LINK TO OLD COLONIAL PRACTICES."

2. SEPT 10 LA NACION EDITORIAL, "CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE--COMING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AGE," NOTES RE POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR, "THE SIGNING OF THE CANAL TREATY HAS CAUSED, UNDOUBTABLY, A CHAIN REACTION, TO WHICH ARE LINKED SIMILAR POSITIVE REACTIONS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF OTHER CONFLICTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA."

THEME OF SPINOFF BENEFITS OF WASHINGTON SUMMIT ECHOED IN SEPT 10 LA NACION INTERNATIONAL EDITOR EDUARDO ULIBARRI ANALYSIS OF DC

MEETING, "IT PRODUCED CONTACTS BETWEEN LEADERS OF TMA CONTINENT, WHOSE RESULTS ARE DIFFICULT TO PERCEIVE, BUT WHICH WILL PROBABLY CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER INTERCHANGE BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, THE PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO GIVE A GREATER DYMANIC TO THE SOMETIMES SOMNABULANT INTERAMERICAN RELATIONS."

3. MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND ODUBER ACCORDED FRONT-PAGE PHOTOPLAY IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES OVER WEEKEND; INDEPENDENT LA NACION DEVOTED FULL-PAGE CORRESPONDENT REPORT TO SUBSTANCE OF MEETING. COMMUNAILITY OF INTERESTS OF US AND COSTA RICA STRESSED, INCLUDING COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER ON HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES, AND US RECOGNITION OF COSTA RICA'S UNIQUE CHARACTER AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, ODUBER IN SEPT 12 PRESS CONFERENCE REITERATED SUPPORT FOR CANAL TREATY AND EMPHIZED BENEFITS FOR LATIN AMERICA.

4. CANAL STORY OTHERWISE GIVEN MODERATE-TO-HEAVY CABLE PLAY DURING REPORTING PERIOD, AP DISPATCHES PREDOMINANT.  
MURCHIE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009